

The Minutes of Fenny Compton Parish Council Meeting – 18th January 2016

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Fenny Compton on 18th January 2016 commencing at 7.45pm.

Present: Miss Deborah Lea in the Chair, Mike Davies, Jon Dutton, Michael Guest, Derek Carless, Samantha Parkes, Councillor Christopher Williams & Parish Clerk Catherine Lambert.

1. **Apologies:** Ian Hartwell, Brian and Lorna Aldrich.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting:** Jon Dutton, seconded by Sam Parkes, proposed acceptance of the Minutes to the Parish Council Meeting held on the 14th December 2015.
3. **Declaration of Interests:** None.
4. **Open Forum:** Pat Walker complained that there was no longer a list of Parish Councillors in the Chronicle. The Chair stated that the content of the Chronicle is not the responsibility of the Parish Council.
- 5.

Matters Arising:

- a) **Defibrillator:** Sam Parkes reported that an application for a grant for a defibrillator was submitted on the 3rd January 2016, confirmation of the application has been received and news of the outcome is awaited. SP
- b) **Risk Assessment:** Jon Dutton reported that he had circulated a draft of an asset inspection rota which was agreed. The Parish Council need to complete a business continuity plan, Jon agreed to compile the relevant document. The Clerk's computer password and back up is still to be done. Confirmation from the street lighting inspections is still awaited. JD/CL
- c) **Neighbourhood Development Plan:** Michael Guest passed the folder to Derek Carless. DC
- d) **Allotment Provision:** Nothing to report
- e) **Land Registry:** Deborah Lea, Mike Davies and Michael Guest set a date to meet on the 28th January. DL/MD/
MG
- f) **Highways:** The Clerk has chased the Highways Department regarding the posts on Church Street and the footpath on Brook Street and High Street and the overgrown hedge on Station Road. Michael Guest reported that there is a blocked drain or pipe on Mill Lane by the school playing field, it is not allowing water to drain through and the water is flowing down the road. CL
- g) **Street lighting:** The Clerk has contacted the Street Lighting Department regarding the defective light opposite the doctor's surgery and the light closest to the road on Thompson's Field which is also permanently on, but has not received a reply. The Clerk had confirmed the Parish Council's acceptance of the street lighting plan for the Compton Buildings site. CL
- h) **Police Report:** Nothing to report.
- i) **Standing Orders:** Mike Davies is still in the process of updating the Standing Orders. MD
- j) **Empty homes:** No new updates.
- k) **Fly Tipping:** Councillor Williams had heard today that the refuse still needs collecting, however Cherwell District Council and Stratford on Avon District Council are disagreeing on who is responsible for the clean-up. Cllr CW
- l) **War Memorial:** No update as yet.
- m) **Tree work:** No new update.
- n) **War Memorial Committee:** Deborah Lea agreed to find the minutes for Jenny Cranfield. DL
MD
- o) **Play Equipment Inspection Training:** Mike Davies found the name of the person who carried out the last training course and will try to contact him. MD
- p) **Monitoring planning:** Mike Davies is continuing to monitor planning conditions.
- q) **Land between Apple Construction Training Ltd and the railway:** This item will be discussed under the planning item on the Agenda. MG
- r) **Emergency Plan:** Michael Guest reported that he had received one person's details following his article in the Chronicle. He will now complete the plan and submit it to the County Council.
- s) **Bench in Bus Shelter:** Mike Guest has found the previous base for the bench, however

The Minutes of Fenny Compton Parish Council Meeting – 18th January 2016

all the fixings have gone. If the Parish Council want to reinstate the bench they will need to contact a builder. The Parish Council felt that the bench would be better used in the bus shelter, however it would need to be properly fixed. Michael Guest agreed to contact Simon Bradley.

MG

- t) **Councillor Training:** Both Derek Carless and Samantha Parkes expressed an interest in attending the new Councillor Training in July. The cost would be £45 for the two delegates. The Parish Council agreed to this cost.
- u) **WALC:** New editions of legal topic notes on Control of Dogs and Byelaws (England). Mike Davies reported that this was not relevant to Fenny Compton Parish Council.
- v) **Building Healthier Communities Scheme.** Mike Davies reported that he had not been able to sort out how to apply.

6. **Correspondence:**

- a) **WALC:** Notes from NALC that have some important observations about the details of the recent Spending Review. The most significant item is the fact that the mechanism behind the council tax support grant that is passed on to parishes is to be phased out (no time-frame is stipulated).
- b) **WALC:** The government does not intend to extend the cap and referendum to parishes in 2016/17. Furthermore the implication is that if Parishes are sensible and do not impose significant increases in their precepts the Government is likely not to extend the legislation to that level in future.
- c) **Stratford on Avon District Council:** Parish & Partners Briefing - Review of 2015. Pass to Mike Davies.
- d) **Darren Whitney – Stratford on Avon District Council:** A short paper on Community Governance Reviews and Parish Meetings/Parish Councils/Town Councils. Pass to Mike Davies.
- e) **WALC:** Auditing process for 2017 and deadline to opt out. Pass to Mike Davies.
- f) **WALC:** Interactive Community Rights usage map.
- g) **Stratford on Avon District Council:** Clean for the Queen 4th - 6th March 2016.
- h) **Anthony Thornton:** Expressing concerns regarding the stability of trees in Squire Place. The Clerk has agreed to meet with Anthony Thornton to see which trees are of concern, and she will also ask Andrew Saunders to inspect the area. CL
- i) **WALC:** Revised legal Topic Note – Pensions.
- j) **Stratford on Avon District Council:** HM the Queen's 90th Birthday Beacons and Street Parties.
- k) **Warwickshire County Council:** Public Scrutiny Meeting - Tuesday 19th January 2016 at The Queen Elizabeth Academy.
- l) **WALC:** Legal Topic note and legal briefing concerning financial contract regulations. Pass to Mike Davies.
- m) **VASA:** The 2016 Development & Fundraising Newsletter. Pass to Mike Davies.
- n) **WALC:** Nominations For Attendance At A Royal Garden Party At Buckingham Palace on Tuesday 24 May 2016.
- o) **Stratford on Avon District Council:** New Settlement Proposal at Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath – Formal Draft Supplementary Planning Document. Consultation – 5.00pm Thursday 14 January to 5.00 pm Friday 26 February 2016.
- p) **Bus service Oxfordshire:** The Chair reported that a joint meeting was proposed to discuss the bus service to Banbury. The Chair decided not to attend the meeting as it had little impact on Fenny Compton.
- q) **Dog Fouling:** The Chair had received reports of dog fouling in the Readings and Berry Meadow area. The Chair requested that residents contact the dog warden direct to report any incidents.

7. **Planning:**

- a) **Notice of Decision. Refusal 15/03354/FUL:** Construction of a detached dwelling house including a new access. Contone House, Bridge Street, Fenny Compton.
- b) **Notice of Decision. Consent with Conditions 15/04088/TREE:** T1: Willow: crown thin 15%, remove dead wood and selectively reduce branches to reduce risk of breakage. G1: Hornbeam hedge: remove. Hornbeam House, 1 Brook Street, Fenny Compton.

The Minutes of Fenny Compton Parish Council Meeting – 18th January 2016

- c) **Notice of Decision. Permission with Conditions 15/04328/FUL:** Proposed erection of single storey extension to side. Sunnyside, Mill Lane, Fenny Compton. Mr Warren Gilbert and Mrs Nuala Toner.
- d) **Notice of Decision. Consent with Conditions 15/04166/TREE:** T1: Lawson Cypress: fell, T2: Field Maple: remove deadwood and lift crown to 2.5m. The Dasset C of E Primary School, Memorial Road.
- e) **Planning Application Withdrawn: 15/03470/VARY:** Variation of condition 1 of 14/01631/FUL: (Siting of demountable structure for use as a classroom and storage area in connection with existing training use) to paint a fence that has been erected around the classroom rather than the classroom itself. Apple Construction Training Ltd, Unit 2 and 4, Station Fields, Fenny Compton.
- f) **Planning Application 15/04328/FUL:** Proposed erection of single storey extension to side. Sunnyside, Mill Lane, Fenny Compton. Mr Warren Gilbert and Mrs Nuala Toner. No Representation.
- g) **Planning Application 15/04382/FUL & 15/04383/LBC:** Loft conversion and insertion of two dormer windows to rear elevation. The Hollies, Church Street, Fenny Compton. Mr and Mrs Chris Revitt. No Representation.
- h) **Notification under general permitted development order: 15/04445/TEL28:** Installation of 1 olive green DSLAM cabinet. Verge, High Street, Fenny Compton.
- i) **Planning Application 15/04110/REM:** Application for approval of reserved matters relating to appearance, layout and scale for the construction of Class C3 dwelling houses, together with public/amenity open space, structural landscaping and means of access in association with outline planning permission 13/02734/OUT. Compton Buildings, Station Works, Fenny Compton. Bloor Homes Limited.

A number of residents attended the meeting to discuss this planning application.

The major issues raised were:

- The site is an eyesore, and requires suitable development, especially so that in future there is housing for children of village residents
- The number of houses, particularly compared with the number in the Outline Planning Application and the suggested figure of 80 homes for Fenny Compton in the draft core Strategy
- The number of affordable houses proposed (45)
- The lack of employment in the village
- The effect on traffic in the village and the possibility of a bypass
- The effect on the school
- The effect on emergency services
- The lack of retail provision
- The lack of community facilities
- The lack of open space
- The amount of planning obligations associated with the application
- The possibility of infill on land between this site and the last house in Station Road
- The effect of the development on flood risk

It was noted that the increase in the number of houses appeared to be due to the fact that Bloor Homes were using more of the site for housing than in the Outline Application.

The Chair thanked residents for attending and giving their input which is valuable for helping the Parish Council make their comments. The final decision will be made by the East Area Planning Committee of Stratford District Council (which meets in Kineton), and any representations which residents wish to make should be made to the District Council direct.

Michael Guest commented that he supported development on the site, however, the number of houses is excessive and the design is not in keeping with the village. It is an urban development in a rural setting. There is a lack of open space within the development breaking up the housing. The Parish Council agreed with Michael and decided to object to this planning application. Mike Davies agreed to compile a response which would be circulated to all Councillors for approval before being submitted to the planning department.

The Minutes of Fenny Compton Parish Council Meeting – 18th January 2016

- j) **Planning Application 15/04367/FUL:** Demolition of outbuilding and creation of a surface water attenuation basin and earth mounds. Banbury Compton Limited, Station Works, Fenny Compton. Bloor Homes Ltd – Marshall Mono Limited. No Representation.
- k) **Planning Application 15/04476/FUL & 15/04478/LBC:** Construction of raised ground floor orangery including external steps with lower ground floor cellar room under. Two storey side extension. Single storey extension to side elevation including removal of circular window. Addition of portico and entrance steps on north east elevation. Removal of sections of walling internally. The Red House, Church Street, Fenny Compton. Mrs Fiona Meyrick. No Representation.
- l) **Warwickshire County Council:** Retrospective application for the importation of approximately 2000 tonnes of blue clay to allow the creation of equestrian exercise area. Waylands Farm, Station Fields, Fenny Compton. Derek Carless reported that he had looked at the site and confirmed that the footpath is obstructed by the bank. Brian Peers from the footpath group had been in touch with the County Council Footpath Department who have been out and talked with the land owner. Brian confirmed that a retrospective footpath diversion application has been submitted, although the Parish Council have not been informed of such an application. Brian also highlighted that there is another bank of earth which has not been included in the application, therefore the application does not completely represent what has been carried out. The Council felt that they could object to this application as it is not factually correct. This application also grants change of use to equestrian. The Council need to confirm definitively whether the footpath is to be diverted and if so the Parish Council need a copy of the documentation. It was agreed that Mike Davies should try to arrange a meeting with the Planning Officer and to report back to the other councillors.
- m) **Planning Application 15/01025/FUL:** Land Rear of School Hill Farm House, Church Street. This application had become invalidated at present. As soon as the required documentation has been received by the District Council it will be re-activated and a new consultation process will begin.

8. **County and District Councillor's Report:**

Councillor Williams gave the following report.

The County Council is currently formulating its budget proposals for next year. Central Government has advised that there will be significant reductions in their settlement which helps fund the authority in addition to the money raised by the Council Tax etc. In the normal course of events authorities such as the County Council are restricted in the amount they are allowed to increase the Council Tax. This figure is normally 2% unless they hold a referendum. This year the Chancellor has announced that local authorities will be allowed to increase their annual precept by 2% to cover the cost of Adult Social Care in addition to any other increase charged. Therefore, the precept increase is likely to be in the region of 3.95%, thereby not breaching government guidelines.

The County Council is in the middle of a four year plan to reduce costs by some £92 million. None of the front line services such as Public Health, Education or Adult Social Care will be subjected to the savings regime. There will be no significant capital projects announced in the budget and the plan is to reduce the current level of borrowing to less than £20million. The District Council are also having to balance the figures bearing in mind the advice given by the Chancellor and the expectation that the settlement provided by central government will be significantly reduced. The government recognises that Stratford District Council has a significantly lower tax rate than other authorities. Principally this has been achieved by not implementing Council Tax rises over the past five years. In normal circumstances, any local authority tax increase has to be less than 2%, however, this year the dispensation allows a tax increase which, if accepted at the Budget Meeting, would be 3.14% and amount to less than 11p per week for a Band D property. Stratford would continue to be the lowest taxed authority in the West Midlands.

Core Strategy Progress – A Public Examination to hear responses to the modifications proposed in August 2015 has been held over the past week and will finish this week. The emphasis is on these modifications which were recommended by the Inspector in his Interim Report of March 2015, since 70% of the original Core Strategy has already been accepted.

The Minutes of Fenny Compton Parish Council Meeting – 18th January 2016

9. Finance:

- a) **Budget 2016/17 to be approved:** Resolution: The Parish Council agreed their budget for 2016/17. This was proposed by Derek Carless, seconded by Michael Guest, and agreed by all.
- b) **Precept 2016/17 to be approved:** Resolution: The Parish Council agreed a precept request of £18,300, which when added to the Council Tax Reduction Grant of £750 meets the total budget of £19,050. This is an increase of 1.89% on the precept request from the previous year, partly due to the reduction of the Council Tax Reduction Grant by £240. The approval of the precept was proposed by Michael Guest, seconded by Mike Davies and agreed by all.
- c) **Grass mowing contract 2016.** Mick Jones had supplied his quotation for the village grass mowing contract for £380 per village mow and £10 an hour for general ground work. Mike Davies, seconded by Derek Carless, proposed the acceptance of this quote which was agreed by all. MD/JD
- d) **Unmetered Streetlight Electricity Supply:** The Clerk had confirmed acceptance of the Southern Electric Quote.
- e) **Pavilion Water:** Mike Davies and Jon Dutton are to meet at the pavilion to monitor the water usage. MD
- f) **Village Violin School:** The Clerk had completed the relevant documentation for the Violin School Grant.
- g) **Short term fixed rate investment.** The Clerk has reinvested £15,000 for three months, the term starts tomorrow and matures on the 18th April and has an interest rate of 0.57%.
- h) **Pavilion Electricity:** The invoice for January which covers two months is £110.58. The Parish Council are in credit by £47.62, however this estimated invoice seems to be too high. Mike Davies agreed to read the meter again.
- i) **Footway Lighting Maintenance 2016/17:** Warwickshire County Council had supplied their quote for the 2016/17 contract at £9.26 plus VAT for non LED Lanterns. This compares to £7.72 plus VAT the previous year. There are 63 lights in total = £583.38. Derek Carless, seconded by Sam Parkes, proposed the acceptance of this quote which was agreed by all.

Bank Balances 18th January 2016

Commutated sum on deposit	£4,253.67
Deposit Account	£28,608.21
Higher interest fixed term deposit	£0.00
Current Account	£231.29
Partial Withdrawal High Interest Deposit	£11,155.55

Transfers

19/0/16: Business Call to Current Account	£1350.00
---	----------

Interest Income included in Bank Balances

Business Call Account	£0.60
Commutated Sum	£0.17
Higher Interest fixed term deposit	£20.19

Cheques paid since the last meeting

1881: BT Payment Services Ltd: Telephone and Broadband.	£139.17
---	---------

Cheques requiring payment

1882: E-On: Streetlight Electricity: 1 Oct – 31 Dec.	£598.44
1883: The Utility Warehouse: Pavilion Electric.	£62.96
1884: M Davies: Photocopying costs.	£24.00
S/O Catherine Lambert: 2 months' salary.	£659.20

Payments Received

None

The Minutes of Fenny Compton Parish Council Meeting – 18th January 2016

was agreed.

10. **Updates:**

- a) **Flood Prevention:** Michael Guest thanked the County Council for their grant of £500. Michael had tried to make contact with the land agent for the proposed second flood alleviation area, but had been unsuccessful. Councillor Williams agreed to chase. MG
- b) **Playing Field:** Nothing to report.
- c) **Play Equipment:** The Clerk still had to forward details of the see saw installer to Mike Davies. CL
- d) **Superfast Broadband:** Nothing to report.

11. **Community Speed Watch – Ian Hartwell.**

MD/JD

Ian gave his apologies and asked for this to be discussed at the next meeting. Councillor Williams informed the meeting that this project requires 6 volunteers to be trained and use the equipment and the Parish Council will have to purchase the equipment. The main purpose of the project is to inform not to prosecute. It can put the Parish Council at odds with the community. The details provided by Ian had been circulated to all Councillors. The Parish Council agreed not to proceed with this initiative.

12. **Any Other Business:**

- a) Mike Davies gave his apologies for the next meeting.

The Minutes of Fenny Compton Parish Council Meeting – 18th January 2016